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Listing of Claims

The following listing of claims will replace all prior versions, and listings, of claims in the subject application:

Claims 1-54 (canceled)

55. (previously presented) A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) continuously monitoring use of an image memory of the image forming apparatus, and calculating a memory usage rate of the image forming apparatus, wherein the memory usage rate is a percentage of a time period that a percentage of the image memory in use during said time period is within a corresponding predetermined range of percentages;

(b) storing performance measurement data corresponding to said memory usage rate calculated in (a);

(c) receiving a request for data transmission from a central data processing apparatus and in response to said request, reading said measurement data stored in (b) relating to said memory usage rate; and

(d) transferring said data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.

56. (previously presented)   The method of claim 55, wherein said image forming apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

57. (previously presented)   The method of claim 55, wherein said image forming apparatus and said central data processing apparatus perform communications operations in accordance with a group 3 facsimile protocol.

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58. (currently amended) A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) ~~monitoring~~ providing a function usage measuring part in the image forming apparatus to monitor each image forming function of the image forming apparatus, and ~~maintaining~~ maintain a corresponding count of a number of times that the image forming function of the image forming apparatus has been used;

(b) storing, in a storage part of the image forming apparatus, performance measurement data corresponding to said image forming function usage counts maintained in (a);

(c) receiving, from a central data processing apparatus through a network, a request for data transmission ~~from a central data processing apparatus~~ and in response to said request, reading, from said storage part of the image forming apparatus, said performance measurement data stored in (b) relating to said function usage counts; and

(d) transferring, from said image forming apparatus through said network, said performance measurement data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.

59. (previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein said image forming apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

60. (previously presented) The method of claim 58, wherein said image forming apparatus and said central data processing apparatus perform communications operations in accordance with a group 3 facsimile protocol.

61. (currently amended) A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) ~~measuring~~ providing a performance measuring part in the image forming apparatus to measure for each predetermined period of time a number of times that facsimile communications ~~have been~~ were performed by the image forming apparatus during said predetermined period of

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time;

(b) storing, in a storage part of the image forming apparatus, performance measurement data corresponding-to including said measured number of times that facsimile communications have-been were performed during said predetermined period of time, measured in (a); ·

(c) receiving, from a central data processing apparatus through a network, a request for data transmission from a central data processing apparatus and in response to said request, reading, from said storage part of the image forming apparatus, said performance measurement data stored in (b) relating to said amount of time of line vacancy; and

(d) transferring, from said image forming apparatus through said network, said performance measurement data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.

62.   (previously presented)   The method of claim 61, wherein said image forming apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

63.   (currently amended)   A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) monitoring providing a performance measuring part in the image forming apparatus to monitor line vacancy of the image forming apparatus and measuring an amount of time of line vacancy;

(b) storing, in a storage part of the image forming apparatus, performance measurement data corresponding to said amount of time of line vacancy measured in (a);

(c) receiving, from a central data processing apparatus through a network, a request for data transmission from a central data processing apparatus and in response to said request, reading, from said storage part of the image forming apparatus, said performance measurement data stored in (b) relating to said amount of time of line vacancy; and

(d) transferring, from said image forming apparatus through said network, said performance measurement data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.

64. (previously presented)   The method of claim 63, wherein said image forming apparatus is connected to said central data processing apparatus via a telephone line network.

65. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus which-is operatively connected through a network to a central processing apparatus, said apparatus comprising:

a performance measuring mechanism [[which]] configured to continuously monitors monitor use of an image memory and calculates calculate a memory usage rate of the image forming apparatus;

a status memory that-stores configured to store performance measurement data including said memory usage rate calculated by said performance measuring mechanism;

a data reading mechanism that-receives configured to receive from a central data processing apparatus through a network a request for data transmission from-said-central-data processing-apparatus and [[that,]] in response to said request, [[reads]] read said performance measurement data relating to said memory usage rate from said status memory; and

a data transfer mechanism that transfers configured to transfer said performance measurement data read by said data reading mechanism through said network to said central processing apparatus.

66. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus which-is operatively connected through a network to a central processing apparatus, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a performance-measuring-mechanism-which-monitors function usage measuring part configured to monitor each image forming function of the image forming apparatus and maintains maintain a corresponding count of a number of times that the image forming

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function of the image forming apparatus has been used;

a memory ~~that stores~~ <u>configured to store</u> performance measurement data including the <u>image forming</u> function usage counts;

a data reading mechanism ~~that receives~~ <u>configured to receive from a central data processing apparatus through a network</u> a request for data transmission ~~from said central data processing apparatus~~ and that, in response to said request, reads said <u>performance</u> measurement data relating to the function usage counts from said memory; and

a data transfer mechanism that ~~transfers~~ <u>configured to transfer</u> said <u>performance measurement</u> data read by said data reading mechanism <u>through said network</u> to said central processing apparatus.

67. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus ~~which is~~ operatively connected <u>through a network</u> to a central processing apparatus, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a performance measuring mechanism ~~which maintains~~ <u>configured to maintain</u> a count of a number of times that communications ~~have been~~ <u>were</u> performed by the image forming apparatus in a predetermined period of time;

a memory ~~that stores~~ <u>configured to store</u> performance measurement data including said count of the number of times that communications ~~have been~~ <u>were</u> performed <u>in said predetermined period of time</u>;

a data reading mechanism ~~that receives~~ <u>configured to receive from a central data processing apparatus through a network</u> a request for data transmission ~~from said central data processing apparatus~~ and that, in response to said request, reads said <u>performance</u> measurement data relating to said amount of time of line vacancy from said memory; and

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a data transfer mechanism that ~~transfers~~ configured to transfer said performance measurement data read by said data reading mechanism through said network to said central processing apparatus.

68. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus ~~which is~~ operatively connected through a network to a central processing apparatus, said image forming apparatus comprising: ,

a performance measuring mechanism ~~which monitors~~ configured to monitor line vacancy of the image forming apparatus and ~~measures~~ measure an amount of time of line vacancy;

a memory ~~that stores~~ configured to store performance measurement data including said amount of time of line vacancy measured by said performance measuring mechanism;

a data reading mechanism ~~that receives~~ configured to receive from a central data processing apparatus through a network a request for data transmission ~~from said central data processing apparatus~~ and that, in response to said request, reads said performance measurement data relating to said amount of time of line vacancy from said memory; and

a data transfer mechanism that ~~transfers~~ configured to transfer said performance measurement data read by said data reading mechanism through said network to said central processing apparatus.

69. (currently amended) An image forming apparatus ~~which is~~ operatively connected through a network to a central processing apparatus, said image forming apparatus comprising:

a performance measuring mechanism ~~which monitors~~ configured to monitor a number of recording sheets that have been used for image forming operations of the image forming

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apparatus and ~~maintains~~ <u>maintain</u> a count of a number of occurrences that the recording sheets are spent out;

a memory ~~that stores~~ <u>configured to store</u> performance measurement data including said count of the number of occurrences that the recording sheets are spent out;

a data reading mechanism ~~that receives~~ <u>configured to receive from a central data processing apparatus through a network</u> a request for data transmission ~~from said central data processing apparatus~~ and that, in response to said request, reads said <u>performance</u> measurement data relating to said count of the number of occurrences that the recording sheets are spent out; and

a data transfer mechanism that ~~transfers~~ <u>configured to transfer</u> said <u>performance measurement</u> data read by said data reading mechanism <u>through said network</u> to said central processing apparatus.

Claim 70 (canceled).

71. (new) A method for monitoring performance of an image forming apparatus, said method comprising:

(a) providing a performance measuring part in the image forming apparatus to monitor a number of recording sheets that have been used for image forming operations of the image forming apparatus and maintain a count of a number of occurrences that the recording sheets are spent out;

(b) storing, in a storage part of the image forming apparatus, performance measurement data including said count of the number of occurrences that the recording sheets are spent out maintained in (a);

(c) receiving, from a central data processing apparatus through a network, a request for

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data transmission and in response to said request, reading, from said storage part of the image

forming apparatus, said performance measurement data stored in (b) including said count of the

number of occurrences that the recording sheets are spent out; and

     (d) transferring, from said image forming apparatus through said network, said

performance measurement data read in (c) to said central data processing apparatus.